

IC 25-1-5

Chapter 5. Professional Licensing Agency

IC 25-1-5-1

Centralization of staff, functions, and services; purpose

Sec. 1. The centralization of staff, functions, and services contemplated by this chapter shall be done in such a way as to enhance the Indiana professional licensing agency's ability to:

- (1) make maximum use of data processing as a means of more efficient operation; and
- (2) provide more services and carry out functions of superior quality.

As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.169-1985, SEC.23; P.L.206-2005, SEC.1.

IC 25-1-5-2

Definitions

Sec. 2. The following terms are defined for this chapter:

- (1) "Agency" means the Indiana professional licensing agency established by section 3 of this chapter.
- (2) "Board" means any agency, board, advisory committee, or group described in IC 25-0.5-5.

As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.206-2005, SEC.2; P.L.3-2014, SEC.10.

IC 25-1-5-3

Indiana professional licensing agency; functions; duties and responsibilities

Sec. 3. (a) There is established the Indiana professional licensing agency. The agency shall perform all administrative functions, duties, and responsibilities assigned by law or rule to the executive director, secretary, or other statutory administrator of the entities described in IC 25-0.5-5.

(b) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to give the agency policy making authority, which authority remains with each board.

As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.2. Amended by Acts 1982, P.L.113, SEC.8; P.L.137-1985, SEC.6; P.L.169-1985, SEC.24; P.L.149-1987, SEC.18; P.L.242-1989, SEC.5; P.L.238-1989, SEC.5; P.L.186-1990, SEC.3; P.L.48-1991, SEC.13; P.L.227-1993, SEC.4; P.L.213-1993, SEC.1; P.L.33-1993, SEC.10; P.L.124-1994, SEC.3; P.L.175-1997, SEC.4; P.L.147-1997, SEC.7; P.L.84-1998, SEC.2; P.L.24-1999, SEC.3; P.L.206-2005, SEC.3; P.L.2-2008, SEC.57; P.L.122-2009, SEC.3; P.L.84-2010, SEC.9; P.L.232-2013, SEC.12; P.L.3-2014, SEC.11.

IC 25-1-5-3.3

Treatment of rules adopted by health professions bureau before July 1, 2005; transfer of property and appropriations to agency; treatment of references to health professions bureau

Sec. 3.3. (a) The rules adopted by the health professions bureau before July 1, 2005, and in effect on June 30, 2005, shall be treated after June 30, 2005, as the rules of the agency.

(b) On July 1, 2005, the agency becomes the owner of all the property of the health professions bureau. An appropriation made to the health professions bureau shall be treated after June 30, 2005, as an appropriation to the agency.

(c) Any reference in a law, a rule, a license, a registration, a certification, or an agreement to the health professions bureau shall be treated after June 30, 2005, as a reference to the agency.

As added by P.L.220-2011, SEC.404.

IC 25-1-5-3.5

Board membership not a lucrative office

Sec. 3.5. For purposes of Article 2, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, membership on a board is not a lucrative office.

As added by P.L.135-2012, SEC.3.

IC 25-1-5-4

Additional duties and functions; staff

Sec. 4. (a) The agency shall employ necessary staff, including specialists and professionals, to carry out the administrative duties and functions of the boards, including but not limited to:

- (1) notice of board meetings and other communication services;
- (2) recordkeeping of board meetings, proceedings, and actions;
- (3) recordkeeping of all persons licensed, regulated, or certified by a board;
- (4) administration of examinations; and
- (5) administration of license or certificate issuance or renewal.

(b) In addition, the agency:

- (1) shall prepare a consolidated statement of the budget requests of all the boards described in IC 25-0.5-5;
- (2) may coordinate licensing or certification renewal cycles, examination schedules, or other routine activities to efficiently utilize agency staff, facilities, and transportation resources, and to improve accessibility of board functions to the public;
- (3) may consolidate, where feasible, office space, recordkeeping, and data processing services; and
- (4) shall operate and maintain the electronic registry of professions established under IC 25-1-5.5.

(c) In administering the renewal of licenses or certificates under this chapter, the agency shall send a notice of the upcoming expiration of a license or certificate to each holder of a license or certificate at least ninety (90) days before the expiration of the license or certificate. The notice must inform the holder of the license or certificate of the need to renew and the requirement of payment of the renewal fee. If this notice of expiration is not sent by the agency, the holder of the license or certificate is not subject to a sanction for

failure to renew if, once notice is received from the agency, the license or certificate is renewed within forty-five (45) days after receipt of the notice.

(d) In administering an examination for licensure or certification, the agency shall make the appropriate application forms available at least thirty (30) days before the deadline for submitting an application to all persons wishing to take the examination.

(e) The agency may require an applicant for license renewal to submit evidence proving that:

- (1) the applicant continues to meet the minimum requirements for licensure; and
- (2) the applicant is not in violation of:
 - (A) the statute regulating the applicant's profession; or
 - (B) rules adopted by the board regulating the applicant's profession.

(f) The agency shall process an application for renewal of a license or certificate:

- (1) not later than ten (10) days after the agency receives all required forms and evidence; or
- (2) within twenty-four (24) hours after the time that an applicant for renewal appears in person at the agency with all required forms and evidence.

This subsection does not require the agency to issue a renewal license or certificate to an applicant if subsection (g) applies.

(g) The agency may delay issuing a license renewal for up to one hundred twenty (120) days after the renewal date for the purpose of permitting the board to investigate information received by the agency that the applicant for renewal may have committed an act for which the applicant may be disciplined. If the agency delays issuing a license renewal, the agency shall notify the applicant that the applicant is being investigated. Except as provided in subsection (h), before the end of the one hundred twenty (120) day period, the board shall do one (1) of the following:

- (1) Deny the license renewal following a personal appearance by the applicant before the board.
- (2) Issue the license renewal upon satisfaction of all other conditions for renewal.
- (3) Issue the license renewal and file a complaint under IC 25-1-7.
- (4) Request the office of the attorney general to conduct an investigation under subsection (i) if, following a personal appearance by the applicant before the board, the board has good cause to believe that there has been a violation of IC 25-1-9-4 by the applicant.
- (5) Upon agreement of the applicant and the board and following a personal appearance by the applicant before the board, renew the license and place the applicant on probation status under IC 25-1-9-9.

(h) If an individual fails to appear before the board under

subsection (g), the board may take action on the applicant's license allowed under subsection (g)(1), (g)(2), or (g)(3).

(i) If the board makes a request under subsection (g)(4), the office of the attorney general shall conduct an investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, the office of the attorney general may file a petition alleging that the applicant has engaged in activity described in IC 25-1-9-4. If the office of the attorney general files a petition, the board shall set the matter for a hearing. If, after the hearing, the board finds the practitioner violated IC 25-1-9-4, the board may impose sanctions under IC 25-1-9-9. The board may delay issuing the renewal beyond the one hundred twenty (120) days after the renewal date until a final determination is made by the board. The applicant's license remains valid until the final determination of the board is rendered unless the renewal is denied or the license is summarily suspended under IC 25-1-9-10.

(j) The license of the applicant for a license renewal remains valid during the one hundred twenty (120) day period unless the license renewal is denied following a personal appearance by the applicant before the board before the end of the one hundred twenty (120) day period. If the one hundred twenty (120) day period expires without action by the board, the license shall be automatically renewed at the end of the one hundred twenty (120) day period.

(k) Notwithstanding any other statute, the agency may stagger license or certificate renewal cycles. However, if a renewal cycle for a specific board or committee is changed, the agency must obtain the approval of the affected board or committee.

(l) An application for a license, certificate, registration, or permit is abandoned without an action of the board, if the applicant does not complete the requirements to complete the application within one (1) year after the date on which the application was filed. However, the board may, for good cause shown, extend the validity of the application for additional thirty (30) day periods. An application submitted after the abandonment of an application is considered a new application.

As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.169-1985, SEC.25; P.L.149-1987, SEC.19; P.L.22-1999, SEC.1; P.L.44-2000, SEC.1; P.L.75-2002, SEC.1; P.L.206-2005, SEC.4; P.L.177-2009, SEC.14; P.L.3-2014, SEC.12; P.L.177-2015, SEC.8.

IC 25-1-5-5

Executive director

Sec. 5. (a) The agency shall be administered by an executive director appointed by the governor who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the governor.

(b) The executive director must be qualified by experience and training.

(c) The term "executive director" or "secretary", or any other statutory term for the administrative officer of a board described in IC 25-0.5-5, means the executive director of the agency or the

executive director's designee.

(d) The executive director is the chief fiscal officer of the agency and is responsible for hiring of all staff, and for procurement of all services and supplies in accordance with IC 5-22. The executive director may appoint not more than three (3) deputy directors, who must be qualified to work for the boards which are served by the agency.

(e) The executive director shall execute a bond payable to the state, with surety to consist of a surety or guaranty corporation qualified to do business in Indiana, in an amount fixed by the state board of accounts, conditioned upon the faithful performance of duties and the accounting for all money and property that come into the executive director's hands or under the executive director's control. The executive director may likewise cause any employee of the agency to execute a bond if that employee receives, disburses, or in any way handles funds or property of the agency. The costs of any such bonds shall be paid from funds available to the agency.

(f) The executive director may present to the general assembly legislative recommendations regarding operations of the agency and the boards it serves, including adoption of four (4) year license or certificate renewal cycles wherever feasible.

(g) The executive director may execute orders, subpoenas, continuances, and other legal documents on behalf of a board or committee when requested to do so by the board or committee.

(h) The executive director or the executive director's designee may, upon request of a board or committee, provide advice and technical assistance on issues that may be presented to the boards or committees.

As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.2. Amended by Acts 1982, P.L.113, SEC.9; P.L.169-1985, SEC.26; P.L.149-1987, SEC.20; P.L.48-1991, SEC.14; P.L.49-1997, SEC.63; P.L.206-2005, SEC.5; P.L.6-2012, SEC.169; P.L.3-2014, SEC.13.

IC 25-1-5-6

Executive director; representatives; staff placement

Sec. 6. (a) The executive director may designate certain employees of the agency to represent the executive director of the agency at the board meetings, proceedings, or other activities of the board.

(b) The executive director shall assign staff to individual boards and shall work with the boards to ensure efficient utilization and placement of staff.

As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.169-1985, SEC.27; P.L.206-2005, SEC.6.

IC 25-1-5-7

Repealed

(Repealed by P.L.186-1990, SEC.17.)

IC 25-1-5-8

Repealed

(As added by P.L.26-1985, SEC.19. Amended by P.L.332-1989(ss), SEC.45. Repealed by P.L.206-2005, SEC.15.)

IC 25-1-5-9

Submission of certified document as proof of required diploma

Sec. 9. If a board or committee requires an applicant for a certificate or license to submit a certified copy of a diploma showing that the applicant graduated from a school or program as a condition for certification or licensure, the applicant may satisfy this requirement by submitting another certified document that shows that the applicant graduated from or received the required diploma from the applicable school or program.

As added by P.L.177-1996, SEC.1.

IC 25-1-5-10

Provider profiles

Sec. 10. (a) As used in this section, "provider" means an individual licensed, certified, registered, or permitted by any of the entities described in IC 25-0.5-6.

(b) The agency shall create and maintain a provider profile for each provider described in subsection (a).

(c) A provider profile must contain the following information:

- (1) The provider's name.
- (2) The provider's license, certification, registration, or permit number.
- (3) The provider's license, certification, registration, or permit type.
- (4) The date the provider's license, certification, registration, or permit was issued.
- (5) The date the provider's license, certification, registration, or permit expires.
- (6) The current status of the provider's license, certification, registration, or permit.
- (7) The provider's city and state of record.
- (8) A statement of any disciplinary action taken against the provider within the previous ten (10) years by an entity described in IC 25-0.5-6.

(d) The agency shall make provider profiles available to the public.

(e) The computer gateway administered by the office of technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1 shall make the information described in subsection (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), (c)(6), (c)(7), and (c)(8) generally available to the public on the Internet.

(f) The agency may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this section.

As added by P.L.211-2001, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.177-2005, SEC.45; P.L.206-2005, SEC.7; P.L.2-2008, SEC.58; P.L.122-2009, SEC.4; P.L.84-2010, SEC.10; P.L.232-2013, SEC.13; P.L.3-2014,

SEC.14.

IC 25-1-5-11

Personal information; confidentiality; Social Security numbers; access; exceptions to confidentiality

Sec. 11. (a) As used in this section, "applicant" means an individual who applies for a license, certificate, registration, or permit issued by a board under this title.

(b) As used in this section, "licensee" means an individual who is or has been licensed, certified, or registered by a board under this title.

(c) As used in this section, "personal information" means the following:

(1) Home telephone number.

(2) Electronic mail address.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the personal information of an individual who is:

(1) a licensee;

(2) an applicant; or

(3) a board member;

is confidential for purposes of IC 5-14-3-4 and may not be disclosed to the public by the agency or a board.

(e) An applicant or a licensee shall provide the applicant's or licensee's Social Security number to the agency.

(f) The agency and the boards shall collect and release the applicant's or licensee's Social Security number as provided in state or federal law.

(g) Notwithstanding IC 4-1-10-3, the agency and the boards may allow access to the Social Security number of each applicant or licensee to:

(1) a testing service that provides the examination for licensure, certification, or registration to the agency or the boards; or

(2) an individual state regulatory board or an organization composed of state regulatory boards for the applicant's or licensee's profession for the purpose of coordinating:

(A) licensure, certification, or registration; and

(B) disciplinary activities among the individual states.

(h) Notwithstanding subsection (d), the agency or a board may disclose personal information of an individual described in subsection (d) if the person requesting the information provides proof of identity and represents that the use of the personal information will be strictly limited to at least one (1) of the following:

(1) For use by a government agency, including a court or law enforcement agency, in carrying out its functions, or a person acting on behalf of a government agency in carrying out its functions.

(2) For use in connection with a civil, a criminal, an administrative, or an arbitration proceeding in a court or government agency or before a self-regulatory body, including

the service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or under an order of a court.

(3) For use in research activities, and for use in producing statistical reports, as long as the personal information is not published, re-disclosed, or used to contact the individuals who are the subject of the personal information.

(4) For use by any person, when the person demonstrates, in a form and manner prescribed by the agency, that written consent has been obtained from the individual who is the subject of the information.

(5) For any other use specifically authorized by law that is related to the agency or a board or to public safety.

As added by P.L.157-2006, SEC.18. Amended by P.L.151-2013, SEC.9.